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Control: 8591

Rec'd: NOVEMBER 15, 1958
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FROM: BERLIN

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 337, NOVEMBER 15, 6 PM

SENT BONN 290, DEPARTMENT 337, REPEATED INFORMATION MOSCOW 88,
LONDON 24, PARIS 32.

BONN PASS POLAD USAREUR 93.

PARIS PASS TOPOL.

GEN. HAMLETT (WITH CONCURRENCE BRITISH AND FRENCH COMMANDANTS)
CALLED ON GOVERNING MAYOR BRANDT THIS MORNING AND AS RESULT
BEING RECEIVED ALONE HAD FREE FRANK DISCUSSION WITH MAYOR.
GEN. HAMLETT EXPLAINED HE CALLING AS KOMMANDATURA CHAIRMAN
TO ASSURE MAYOR OF SOLID BACKING TO WEST BERLIN OF THREE
COMMANDANTS AND OF CONSTANT READINESS EXCHANGE IDEAS WITH
HIM.

GEN. HAMLETT INFORMED BRANDT IN GENERAL TERMS OF LAST NIGHT'S
INCIDENT OF SOV DETENTION THREE U.S. SOLDIERS AND TRUCKS AND
STATED WE FELT SOVS HAD BEEN FORCED TO BACK DOWN ON THIS
ISSUE.

MAYOR THEN READ EXCERPTS FROM YESTERDAY'S KHRUSHCHEV STATE-
MENT. MAYOR FELT THESE REMARKS CONSTITUTED BACKDOWN BY SOVS.

BRANDT BROUGHT UP SUBJECT POSSIBLE EAST GERMAN TAKEOVER
SOV SURFACE CHECKPOINTS. GEN. HAMLETT STATED WE HAD NO IN-
FORMATION SUCH MOVE IMPENDING. IN REPLY TO BRANDT QUESTION
AS TO WHAT WE WOULD DO IN EVENT SUCH TAKEOVER, GEN. HAMLETT
STATED ONE COULD SEE THREE ALTERNATIVE COURSES: 1) COMPLETE
REFUSAL ACCEPT EAST GERMANS AT CHECKPOINTS AND USE OF FORCE
TO MAINTAIN SURFACE ACCESS; 2) REFUSAL TRANSMIT EAST GERMAN
CHECKPOINTS WHICH WOULD RESULT IN "SELF-IMPOSED BLOCKADE";
3) ACCEPT

3) ACCEPT UNDER PROTEST CONTROLS BY EAST GERMANS MAKING CLEAR WE DO SO ONLY BECAUSE THEY AGENTS OF SOVS IN WHOM ULTIMATE AUTHORITY CONTINUES TO RESIDE. MAYOR FELT FIRST COURSE MOST DANGEROUS OF THE THREE (GEN. HAMLETT AGREED) AND WOULD PROBABLY AT LEAST TO LEAD TO BLOCKADE OF TRAFFIC BETWEEN FEDREP AND BERLIN AND STRANGULATION OF CITY. ALTHOUGH "SELF-IMPOSED BLOCKADE" FEASIBLE BECAUSE, AS GEN. HAMLETT OBSERVED, GARRISONS COULD BE SUPPLIED BY AIR, MAYOR FELT THIS STEP OFFERED AT BEST PROSPECT GDR DEMAND FOR VASTLY INCREASED DOCUMENTATION AND CONTROL MEASURES TO OBTAIN SURFACE ACCESS FOR GARRISONS. ALTHOUGH RECOGNIZING THAT ACCEPTANCE EAST GERMANS AS AGENTS DEFINITE STEP IN WRONG DIRECTION, BRANDT FELT ON BALANCE THIS WAS BEST OF THE THREE COURSES OF ACTION.

GRAVEST DANGER PRESENT SITUATION, ACCORDING BRANDT, IS THROTTLING OF BERLIN ECONOMY AND MAYOR STATED HE HAD CONFIDENTIA INFORMATION FROM [   ] THAT THIS WAS REAL COMMUNIST TARGET. IN REPLY TO QUERY BY GEN. HAMLETT, BRANDT STATED THAT SOME BERLIN INDUSTRIALISTS ALREADY WORRIED, THAT SENATE HAD BEEN WATCHING ECONOMIC INDICES BUT HAD NOTED ONLY MODERATE PRIVATE STOCKPILING STAPLE COMMODITIES, SOME MOVEMENT FAMILY VALUABLES AND DOCUMENTS TO FEDREP, AND NO SIGNIFICANT BANK WITHDRAWALS. THUS, BRANDT FELT LOCAL ECONOMIC REACTION NOT ALARMING.

GEN. HAMLETT NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN CONSIDERABLE SPECULATION CONCERNING FURTHER STATEMENTS THAT MIGHT BE MADE BY U.S., BRITISH AND FRENCH TO REAFFIRM JOINT BERLIN SECURITY GUARANTEE. GEN. HAMLETT SAID HE FELT ENOUGH STATEMENTS ALREADY MADE AND THAT REITERATION MIGHT WEAKEN VALUE OF GUARANTEE BY CASTING DOUBT ON PREVIOUS ASSERTIONS. BRANDT STATED THAT IN HIS OPINION ENOUGH HAS BEEN SAID CONCERNING BERLIN GUARANTEE AND HE THOROUGHLY AGREED FURTHER AFFIRMATION INADVISABLE AT THIS TIME.

THROUGHOUT VISIT IT APPARENT THAT BRANDT GREATLY PLEASED BY GEN. HAMLETT'S CALL AND EVIDENCE SOLIDARITY IT REPRESENTED.

BURNS

OM/22